



ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

OCT 09 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE

SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
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DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Middle Tier of Acquisition (Rapid Prototyping/Rapid Fielding) Interim Governance

Given the positive response to, and interest in, the Middle Tier of Acquisition (MTA) Interim Authority and Guidance, dated April 16, 2018 (attachment 1), which provided initial interim policy guidance for section 804 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2016, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)) will adopt an interim governance approach. Components seeking to exercise MTA for acquisitions initiated after the date of this memorandum must comply with the initial guidance set forth in the April 16, 2018 memorandum and this memorandum, as well as any Component-level policy that might be applicable. This memo has been coordinated with the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (VCJCS).

The rapid prototyping pathway shall provide for the use of innovative technologies to rapidly develop fieldable prototypes to demonstrate new capabilities and meet emerging military needs. The objective of a rapid prototyping program under this pathway is to field a prototype that can be demonstrated in an operational environment and provide for a residual capability within five years. The rapid fielding pathway shall provide for the use of proven technologies to field production quantities of new or upgraded systems with minimal development required. The objective of a rapid fielding program under this pathway is to begin production within six months and complete fielding within five years. A six-month and five-year limit for entering

production and completing a MTA program will be calculated from the date of the first obligation of funds for a program purpose.

The purpose of this interim governance is to ensure that Department of Defense (DoD) Components execute MTA programs in a manner that allows the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and Congress to have confidence in the appropriateness of the Components' use of this authority.

In accordance with OUSD(A&S)'s renewed focus on governance through data collection and analysis, rather than individual program oversight, Component Acquisition Executives (CAEs) will formally identify existing MTA programs by submitting an information memorandum to OUSD(A&S) no later than 30 calendar days after the signing of this memorandum. Additionally, CAEs will submit MTA – Program Identification data to OUSD(A&S) utilizing the authoritative spreadsheet in the Defense Acquisition Visibility Environment (DAVE) at <https://dave.acq.osd.mil/> to capture key data elements no later than 30 days after the signing of this memorandum.

CAEs will identify new MTA programs by submitting an information memorandum and Program Identification data at least 30 calendar days before the obligation of any funds for an MTA effort.

There will be monthly MTA governance meetings attended by a representative of the VCJCS, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)), the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)), and the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE), to assess the aggregate use of the MTA authority based on data submissions. MTA programs do not require OSD approval, however, OSD may determine that specific programs are not appropriate for MTA. In this event, I will direct that the program be executed using traditional acquisition authorities as set forth under DoD Instruction 5000.02, and include, when applicable, the requirements of Chapters 139 and 144 of title 10, United States Code. On a quarterly basis, the Director, J8, USD(R&E), USD(A&S), and D,CAPE will meet with each of the CAEs to discuss their portfolio of MTA programs.

After initial program identification, MTA programs will submit updated data quarterly on the first business day of the first month of each fiscal quarter. OUSD(A&S) will continue to refine data collection requirements in collaboration with the Office of the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, OUSD(R&E), CAPE, and the CAEs to ensure data collection is not overly burdensome.

My point of contact for this memorandum is Chris Davis, Office of Strategy, Data, and Design, at christopher.p.davis.civ@mail.mil or 703-692-9726.



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